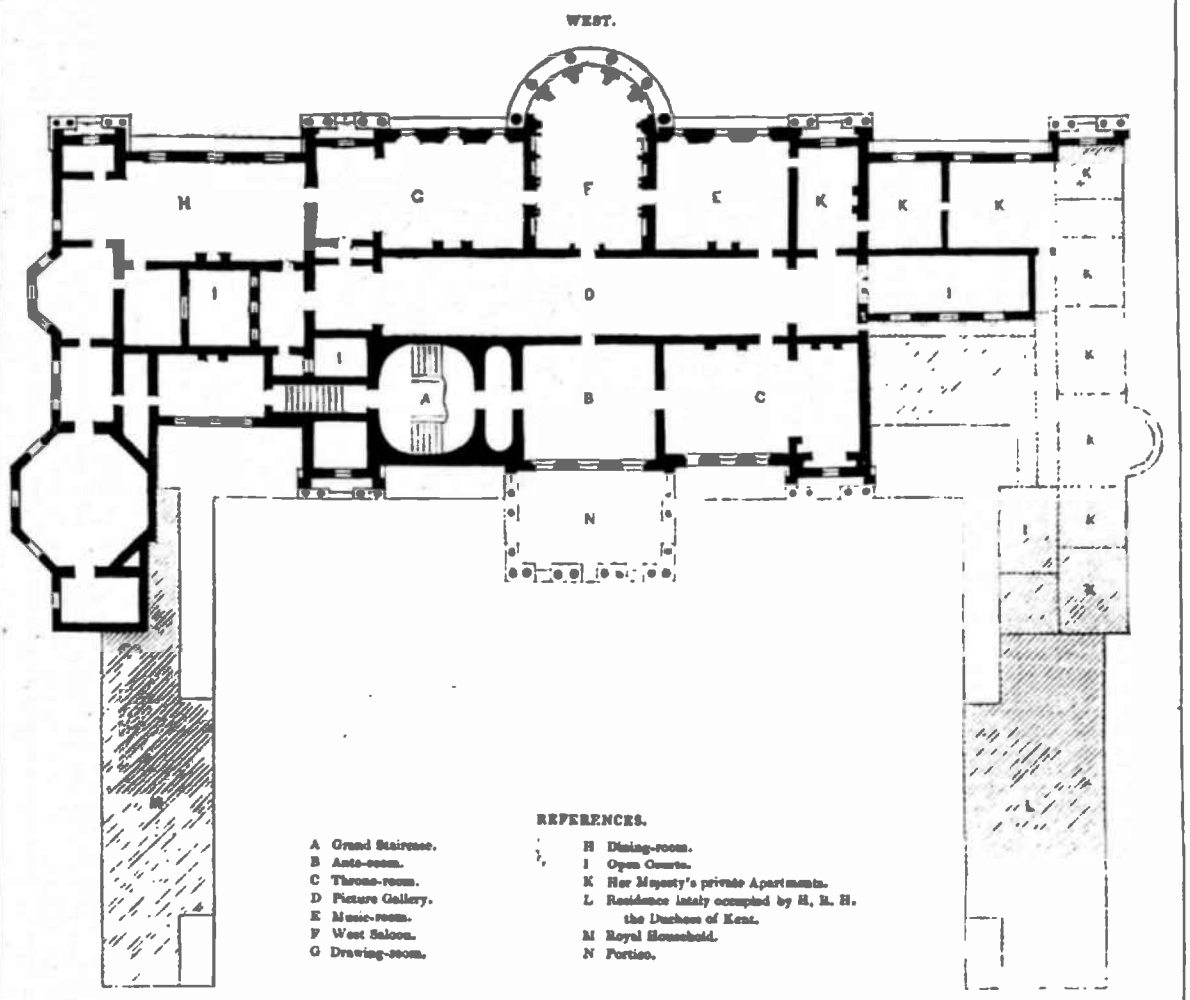
BUCKINGHAM PALACE—PLAN OF PRINCIPAL FLOOR.



ANCIENT HOUSE AT MALINES.

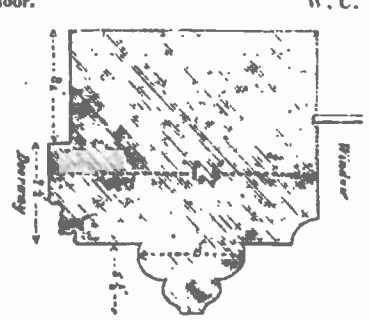
Malines, or Mechlin, is now more celebrated as the central station of the Belgian railroads, than as the town which formed one of the seventeen united provinces, and whose manufactures rivalled those of the more important towns of Flanders. But although of much less importance in a political sense, its direct communication with Brussels, Antwerp, Louvain, Ghent, &c., enables it still to preserve its industrial character. The town itself has also much to recommend it; its wide airy streets, pleasant walks agreeably diversified with wood and water, and extending entirely round the town, render it a place in which the tourist may pass a short time with much pleasure; while the artist or the architect may spend hours in admiring the exterior embellishments and antique edifices of the once lordly and still busy Malines.

Many interesting remains of domestic architecture are to be found in the Grand Place and the adjacent streets, and others, of still better design and in a more perfect state, on the banks of the great canal; but the specimen which principally engaged my attention is that shewn in the engraving on the opposite page. This house stands on the bank of the canal; it is three stories in height, and has attics in the roof: the interior does not now shew any thing worthy of particular notice, but I was assured by the present proprietor (whose attention and civility were only to be exceeded by the love he displayed for his dwelling), that the internal details had been equally rich with those of the exterior.

The external walls are formed entirely of stone; and the whole of the details shew great variety in the design, and delicacy in the execution; the whole front is in very good preservation, except the attic story, the details of which are quite destroyed, the shafts of the column being suddenly broken off, and the outline of the gable formed by the raking lines of the roof. I have not thought it requisite to shew more than the commencement of the gable; and have thus been enabled to give the lower part of the building to a larger scale than I could otherwise have done. The date, 1536, appears immediately over the door.

The accompaning diagram shews the plan of one pier, taken through the window and door.

W. C.



Expedition.—The gas works at St. Neot's have been erected under the superintendence of Mr. Thomas Atkins, gas engineer, of Oxford, in the short space of eleven weeks.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

Sir,—In the event of her Majesty being graciously pleased to give her sanction, with the consent of Parliament, to the removal of her London royal residence from Buckingham Palace to a more congenial locality, I proceed to shew what accommodation the palace would afford for the reception of the national collection of pictures. The accompanying plan explains the arrangement of the first, or principal floor of the palace; and it will be seen that no alteration will be necessary in the apartments beyond admitting the light in some of them from the ceilings.

The centre of the building is at present occupied by the state apartments, a series of noble rooms, 32 feet high, opening to a picture gallery (D), about 180 feet in length, and 26 feet in breadth, which is already lighted by compartments in the ceiling, filled with rich diapered ground glass. The rooms opening into this gallery are (B) an ante-room, 44 feet by 35 feet, (C) throne-room, 64 feet by 35 feet, (E) music-room, 46 feet by 35 feet, (F) west saloon, 52 feet by 35 feet, (G) drawing-room, 68 feet by 35 feet, and beyond this (at H) is the state dining-room, 72 feet by 34 feet; and returning along the south side are several smaller rooms, which would be useful as cabinets either for small pictures, or for cameos, coins, and medals, illustrating English reigns and history, of which no national collection yet exists.

On the ground-floor the apartments would not be inappropriate for the reception of sculpture, of which there is at present hardly a specimen in the National Gallery; the ac-

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